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Culture of peace

Information and communications technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Sustainable development

Social development

Advancement of women

People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Report of the International Criminal Court

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward herewith, in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the texts (in English and French) of the

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Please recycle

following documents and resolutions/declarations adopted by the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Quito, from 22 to 27 March 2013, to the General Assembly:

1. Presidential statement on sexual violence against women (General Assembly agenda item 28, "Advancement of Women")

2. Quito Communiqué (General Assembly agenda items 18, "Macroeconomic policy questions"; 20, "Sustainable development"; and 29, "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model")

3. Resolution on the use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy (General Assembly agenda items 15, "Culture of peace"; 17, "Information and communications technologies for development"; and 27, "Social development")

4. Resolution on the role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and on international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees (General Assembly agenda items 36, "The situation in the Middle East"; 62, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions"; and 70, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance")

5. Resolution on enforcing the responsibility to protect the role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives (General Assembly agenda items 74, "Report of the International Criminal Court"; 65, "Promotion and protection of the rights of children "; and 83, "The rule of law at the national and international levels")

6. Resolution on fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development (General Assembly agenda items 18, "Macroeconomic policy questions"; and 19, "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference")

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations kindly requests the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate these documents as documents of the General Assembly (see annexes).

Annex I to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Presidential statement on sexual violence against women

Endorsed by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)

On behalf of the members of parliament attending the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I express our deep concern at widespread acts of sexual violence against women and, in particular, rape in all its manifestations and contexts.

We strongly condemn sexual violence. It is one of the most frequent forms of violence inflicted upon women, be it in the public or private sphere. We call for urgent and effective action to guarantee women their right to physical and psychological integrity and a life free of fear and violence.

We express our outrage at these heinous acts of violence and join public calls for an end to impunity.

We urge all parliaments to scrutinize existing laws to ensure that these crimes are defined for what they are — a violation of an individual's physical integrity and sexual autonomy, commi :d by any person regardless of their relationship to the victims, in any setting. We must criminalize such acts of sexual violence, enhance prevention by tackling their root causes, toughen punishment of perpetrators and provide women with adequate protection.

Through our oversight function and political control, we must ensure the enforcement of laws and the allocation of appropriate resources. We will request our governments to report to us regularly on measures taken to raise public awareness. We will ask for statistical data so as to evaluate the incidence of acts of sexual violence and the effectiveness of measures in place.

We will also demand that our governments ensure that all those involved in law enforcement are adequately prepared, trained and held accountable. We must ensure that the response to rape and sexual violence is sensitive to women's needs and that the victims are not subject to punishment, abandonment or stigmatization.

We firmly declare that such acts are intolerable and commit ourselves to championing the cause of ending sexual violence against women.

Annex II to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Quito Communiqué

Adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)

> On the occasion of the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, members of parliament came together for a discussion on the theme *From unrelenting growth to purposeful development "Buen vivir": New approaches, new solutions*. The theme was chosen as a contribution to the global reflection on the post 2015 development agenda and the future Sustainable Development Goals that will apply to both developed and developing countries. The following is a synthesis of the discussion held during the plenary debate of the Assembly which the IPU is requested to share with the United Nations. Members of the IPU may also wish to submit this communiqué to their respective parliaments.

Sustainable development is now at a crossroads. In a finite world, the perennial cycle of increasing consumption and production that is at the heart of the current economic model is no longer sustainable. Growth alone is not the answer to the social, economic and environmental challenges of our time; in fact it is becoming part of the problem. A different approach that focuses on well-being in all its dimensions is required if we are to evolve as a global community able to fulfil core human values of peace, solidarity and harmony with nature.

While growth is a necessary condition for development, and indeed has helped countless generations climb out of poverty, more attention now needs to be paid to the nature of growth and to the distribution of its benefits. Strong growth does not necessarily lead to increased human development and happiness. Conversely, with the right social policy balance it is possible to improve overall well-being even at low levels of economic growth. Job creation and the possibility for people to earn a decent living must be central to policies that support growth and well-being. In developing countries, material growth is essential if we are to eradicate extreme poverty and provide everyone with the necessities of life. Here too, environmental and social sustainability must be part of economic policy from the very start. This will be particularly important in view of population growth and the resultant urban explosion.

Ultimately, well-being consists of human factors that do not necessarily depend on unrestrained material consumption and production. Education, health, culture, leisure time, the practice of religion, the enjoyment of all human rights, emotional fulfilment, as well as a sense of belonging to a community, are all dimensions of human happiness that can be advanced at little cost to the environment and with huge social dividends. Supporting more of these goods should

be another focus of a new model of growth and development. While the private sector must continue to lead in job creation, more jobs will be needed in the social sector and in infrastructure development, which benefits communities and minimizes the impact on the environment. Youth unemployment in particular must be given priority.

For well-being policies to succeed, it is imperative that gender inequalities are eradicated so as to unleash women's full potential as citizens and economic actors. Women, half of the global population, remain by far the most disadvantaged in all spheres of life. In many countries, discriminatory laws and cultural norms deprive women of economic opportunities, with less access to credit and lower wages. In most countries, barriers still exist, preventing women from entering political office or corporate boardrooms. Violence against women remains pervasive and further underscores women's vulnerability in most of our societies.

The transition to well-being policies will not be easy and the course has yet to be fully charted. Bold experimentation will be required. Decision-makers must work to reduce the vast inequalities of conditions and opportunities that exist today both within and between countries. Incentives and regulation must be put in place for market forces to work towards well-being. As a number of countries at various levels of development have shown, it is possible today for all governments to adopt measurements to help better target economic, social and environmental policies for human welfare. Measuring national well-being beyond mere GDP will be critical in redefining growth, not only in terms of material production and consumption, but also in terms of social and environmental progress.

The green economy, with its reliance inter alia on technological efficiency and environmentally friendly products, points us in the right direction but only if it is part of a broader policy framework. This will require fiscal incentives and policies to shift the composition of growth towards less resource-intensive production and consumption. A revised growth model will also need to rely more on distributive policies to spread wealth and opportunity more evenly in order to make economies more viable and strengthen well-being. Indeed, nothing undermines well-being more than a feeling of exclusion and deprivation in contrast to the excessive wealth of others.

Well-being policies will need to strive for a better balance between private interests and the common good, between competition and cooperation, and between private and public investments to produce goods that all can enjoy and that the planet can afford to support. In short, the pursuit of well-being as the ultimate purpose of development, and of human progress, will require a new social contract premised on a vision of the planet and of people as assets to be nurtured. The guiding principle of "Buen vivir" should be paired with "Ubuntu", the African dictum that the success of one depends on the success of the whole community.

To achieve this vision of development, greater global cooperation will be required. Developed countries bear a greater responsibility for global sustainable development and the eradication of extreme poverty. More pro-active efforts to place developed countries' economies on a sustainable path will be needed. More efforts will also be required to facilitate green technology transfers to developing countries, including technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change and other environmental emergencies. Development cooperation must be increased and made

more accountable to both donor and recipient countries. It should also aim more directly at supporting well-being.

Re-thinking the growth-centric economic model will also require a different kind of globalization: based more on solidarity and cooperation than on unfettered competition. The international economic, financial and trade architecture tends to reinforce the wrong growth model and remains tilted in favour of entrenched interests. There must be policies to reduce the excessive power, both economic and political, of transnational corporations and financial conglomerates. The increasing concentration of land ownership in a few hands undermines the livelihood of the rural poor. Since a more equitable land distribution leads to higher growth and improved human development, this problem needs to be addressed.

By definition, well-being policies require *all* citizens, and particularly vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and the poor, to participate in decision-making. Being able to participate in the decisions that affect our lives and the social and environmental context around us is in itself a key dimension of well-being. Conversely, well-being is also necessary for citizens to participate effectively in the management of public affairs. Participation and its attendants of transparency and accountability are in turn key pillars of democracy and of the way democracy applies to the functioning of government at all levels — global, national and local — and in response to citizens' needs.

Participation, transparency and accountability constitute the core of *democratic governance*, which is an end in itself and an enabler of sustainable development. There can be no true prosperity without respect for the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Democratic governance should therefore be a stand-alone goal among the new Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a dimension of other goals that will be part of the future development framework. This is further supported by the results of a survey of hundreds of members carried out during the Assembly.

To help steer sustainable development on a new course, a rebalancing between the role of the market and that of government is called for. Effective ways to help reconcile market needs with social imperatives include the development of private-public partnerships, community-based enterprises and other forms of cooperative models. Government intervention to guarantee the rights of the very poor and to safeguard the natural resource base will also be needed. The interdependent challenges of sustainable development require a concerted approach that only governments can initiate and help implement.

To this effect, it will be more important than ever for parliaments to assert their legitimate place in the decision-making process at the national and international levels. The institution of parliament is pivotal to the entire architecture of democratic governance and needs to be strengthened virtually everywhere in the world, with greater oversight capacities and legislative authority. More specifically, stronger parliaments will have to play a central role in the implementation of the future Sustainable Development Goals. This will include ensuring that development policies and plans are drawn up through participatory and inclusive processes, and with regular progress reports submitted to parliament for review.

This debate should continue in national parliaments as a way of engaging them in the global consultations foreseen in the Rio outcome document, aptly called *The Future We Want*.

Annex III to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 27 March 2013)

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering that dialogue between citizens and parliamentarians has the potential to foster greater respect for democracy and democratic institutions, thus countering declining voter participation and promoting greater accountability,

Taking note of the fact that traditional media, in particular those that respect professional standards of editorial independence, plurality and quality of information, continue to be a main source of information on parliament for much of the world's population,

Mindful of the fact that traditional media are facing challenges in responding to rapid technological and financial changes, which may affect their ability to provide information, including information about parliament, and *noting* that independent, pluralistic and quality media are fundamental for democratic processes,

Aware that increasing numbers of citizens and parliamentarians are using social media globally,

Cognizant of the possibilities offered by social media services for promoting the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms while *underscoring* that these same rights and freedoms, in particular the right to privacy and human dignity, may also be threatened on social networks,

Considering the potential of social media to facilitate greater citizen engagement through interaction between parliamentarians and citizens,

Bearing in mind that media, including social media, may also enhance citizen engagement by allowing people to create networks, motivate each other, engage in monitoring activities and contribute to the decision-making process,

Underscoring that parliamentary work should be explained to citizens in a comprehensible and attractive manner,

Affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of women in the democratic process,

Also affirming the need to enhance youth participation and inclusion in the democratic process,

Further affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of senior citizens in the democratic process, while enhancing their knowledge and use of social media,

Underscoring the potential of social media and recent information technology to enhance parliamentarians' engagement with youth and to raise awareness of the problems, needs and aspirations of youth,

Aware of the need to promote security in a digital society, particularly with regard to traditionally unprotected groups of people, such as the elderly or children and persons with a physical, mental and/or sensory disability,

Aiming to ensure that citizen engagement efforts do not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, socioeconomic status, place of residence, disability, religious belief, ethnicity or political affiliation,

Convinced of the need to overcome digital divides, particularly in developing countries, which result when some social groups and regions do not have the same access to information and communication technologies as others,

Considering that the digital divide may impede citizens' access to information provided through social media, hence the importance of guaranteeing all citizens access to information technologies as well as using traditional media to keep the public informed,

Also considering that citizens' ability to engage with parliamentarians depends partly on access to technology as well as their knowledge of parliament and parliamentary procedure,

Bearing in mind the irreplaceable nature of personal contact in the field for elected politicians,

Noting that there are difficulties in using social media to build a consensus by gathering various opinions in a balanced manner although they function well in disseminating a certain political opinion,

Underscoring the fact that fostering media and Internet literacy with regard to both traditional and new social media is an essential prerequisite for enhancing youth participation and inclusion in the political process,

Concerned that social media may also be used to send hate messages, sometimes anonymously, and allow people with malicious intentions to organize and mobilize others, which may undermine democracy and peace,

Underlining the importance of respecting laws regarding defamation and libel, with particular legislative efforts aimed at avoiding incitement to hatred,

Aware of the need to use social media responsibly, not only fully respecting prevailing legislation, but also the confidentiality, privacy and integrity aspects of the information dealt with,

Convinced of the very important role that media and press regulatory bodies can play in protecting human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the right to privacy,

Also convinced of the role that media and parliamentary press bodies can play in scaling up communication between parliament and the public,

Aware of the significant challenges that would be encountered in developing a universally enforceable code of conduct for social media users,

Encouraged that the IPU and the ASGP are working on social media guidelines for parliaments,

Convinced that parliamentarians need to share information about the potential of social media to enhance citizen engagement and representative democracy, its risks, and the technical requirements needed to realize its potential,

Mindful of the watchdog role of journalists in the political system and the need for journalists to be accountable to the public while following the codes of ethics of journalism,

Aware that journalists no longer have the monopoly on information dissemination, as users of social media generate content and information themselves,

Convinced that corruption represents a serious threat to the rule of law, democracy, human rights, equity and social justice,

Affirming that the right to freedom of expression should also be protected online, and *bearing in mind* that the enjoyment of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Underscoring Article 20, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, according to which "Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law",

Recalling United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 20/8 of 29 June 2012 on "The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet",

1. *Recommends* that parliaments develop strategies and guidelines for enhancing citizen engagement in the democratic process through the use of media, including social media;

2. *Calls* on the IPU to collect and make publicly available the guidelines developed by its Member Parliaments, and to develop best practices in the use of social media to enhance citizen engagement;

3. *Encourages* parliaments to include in those guidelines additional provisions that address the need for mutual respect among parliamentarians and between parliamentarians and the public when interacting through the media, including social media;

4. *Calls* on parliaments to disseminate through the media, including social media, information on parliamentary business, debates and procedures with the aim of familiarizing citizens with them and making them more comprehensible, attractive and dynamic;

5. *Encourages* parliaments to use media, including social media, as part of a platform to interact with citizens, while ensuring that any social media engagement would not replace offline engagement, including through traditional media;

6. *Urges* parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure that their citizen engagement efforts are accessible to all regardless of gender, age, socioeconomic status, place of residence, disability, religious belief, ethnicity or political affiliation;

7. *Encourages* parliaments to provide parliamentarians with the necessary information technology resources, assistance, training, equipment, technical support, access and any other forms of assistance to effectively use the media, including social media, as a way of engaging with citizens;

8. *Urges* parliaments to take effective measures aimed at narrowing the digital divide, especially for developing countries where the majority of the population still does not have access to information technology resources;

9. *Calls* on all stakeholders to foster Internet and media literacy for all citizens, in particular children and young people, for example by developing and offering special educational and training programmes;

10. *Urges* parliaments and parliamentarians to respect the rights to freedom of expression, information and assembly, both online and offline;

11. *Underscores* that a free, open and accessible Internet is both a fundamental human right and a tool for citizens to enhance engagement and democracy, and *also underscores* that parliamentarians must assume responsibility for ensuring that citizens have access to free and secure communications online;

12. *Emphasizes* that any regulation of the media must be consistent with international human rights obligations in relation to the right to freedom of expression;

13. *Calls* on all social media users to respect their country's laws regarding defamation and libel in accordance with international human rights law;

14. *Also calls* on all social media users to refrain from hate speech or incitement to violence in accordance with international human rights law;

15. *Further calls* on parliaments to actively support and protect journalists and social media users, including bloggers, and defenders of the freedom of speech around the world;

16. *Urges* parliaments and parliamentarians to protect the right to freedom of expression and speech so as to facilitate journalists' watchdog role through traditional media and social media while respecting ethical codes, thereby enhancing democracy;

17. *Calls* on parliaments to provide parliamentarians with information and assistance regarding legal and other issues pertaining to defamation, libel, the protection of privacy and confidentiality;

18. *Invites* parliaments to put in place, where necessary, regulations and procedures guaranteeing the rights of all persons using new information and communication technologies in a representative and participatory democracy;

19. *Calls* on parliamentarians not only to use new technologies safely, but also to promote such use by third parties and instil a culture of security in the use of social media;

20. *Urges* parliamentarians to work towards achieving a safer digital society, particularly with regard to the use of social networks;

21. *Encourages* the incorporation of social media and technologies into laws and regulations governing access to public information;

22. *Also encourages* parliaments and governments to adopt measures aimed at protecting press freedom, enhancing its transparency, strengthening its capacities and making it more democratic;

23. *Urges* parliamentarians, especially women parliamentarians, to use social media to support each other and interact with communities to enhance women's participation and inclusion in democratic processes;

24. *Also urges* parliamentarians to use social media to increase their engagement with youth and raise awareness of youth problems, needs and aspirations;

25. *Invites* parliaments to conduct a study of media coverage of parliament in their countries so as to gauge the importance of each type of media and each medium;

26. *Urges* the governments of countries that do not already have one to put in place an independent watchdog body to monitor the proper functioning of the freedom of expression and communication of the media and to prevent abuses and human rights violations that might result from the activity of communications professionals;

27. *Encourages* parliaments to diversify their means of communication by creating their own media bodies and by facilitating public access thereto;

28. *Also encourages* parliaments and parliamentarians to establish and respect codes of ethics for communications and to recognize the need for discussions and mutual agreements on how political or other debates should be conducted.

Annex IV to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their Governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 27 March 2013)*

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolution on "Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts" adopted by consensus by the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012),

Stressing the importance of respecting the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, the principles of the UN Charter, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the objectives of the IPU as set forth in Article 1 of its Statutes,

Expressing its deep concern over the situation in Syria and its impact on civilians in general and on women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities in particular,

Considering the psychological trauma from which Syrian refugees are suffering, in particular after losing many of their family members and property,

Conscious of the growing need to take in refugees in neighbouring countries, both in refugee camps and elsewhere, which entails higher costs,

Cognizant of the increasing economic, security, social, health and educational pressures on recipient countries, the majority of which already have scarce resources,

Recalling the pledge made by donor countries at their most recent conference in Kuwait to provide support in the amount of US$ 1.5 billion to the relief agencies involved in assisting Syrian refugees in the region; and *noting* that the amount actually received does not exceed US$ 200 million according to a statement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

* Reservations with regard to the use of the word "security" in the title of the resolution were expressed by the delegations of Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay. In addition, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations on several parts of the resolution which it felt violated the sovereignty of Syria, and the delegation of Cuba expressed a reservation on the first preambular paragraph.

Taking note of the significant difference between the international assistance that should be provided in the light of the burden borne by recipient countries and the funds actually received,

Acknowledging with deep appreciation the efforts of neighbouring countries, including Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, to keep their borders open and provide refuge for those fleeing the violence, despite the difficult organizational and security problems associated with this task,

1. *Calls* on all parliamentarians and IPU Member Parliaments to bring pressure to bear on their governments to provide whatever financial and material support they can to these refugees;

2. *Urges* the donor countries which met at the most recent conference in Kuwait to fulfil their obligation to provide financial support of US$ 1.5 billion;

3. *Calls* on all countries to provide refugees in recipient countries with shelter and accommodation to protect them against the cold in winter and the heat in summer;

4. *Appeals* to relief agencies to provide sanitation facilities, all necessary medical care (consultation, hospital care, obstetric care and medical equipment) and sufficient quantities of foodstuffs for Syrian refugees, most of whom are women, children, elderly persons or persons with disabilities, and to try to provide schooling for the children in the camps;

5. *Urges* countries to provide financial support to recipient countries to ease the pressure on their financial resources, which are already scarce in many of them, including Jordan;

6. *Calls* on Syria's neighbours to ensure, with the support of relief agencies, that refugees on their territories are accommodated in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

7. *Also calls* on the United Nations to assist recipient countries in preventing the cross-border circulation of weapons so as to guarantee the safety of refugees;

8. *Expresses its concern* that, given current circumstances surrounding the influx of refugees, some recipient countries may be forced to close their borders, which will further complicate the humanitarian situation in the region;

9. *Urges* all parties in Syria to put an end to all forms of violence immediately, fully and unconditionally; and *calls* on all relevant regional and international parties to find ways of helping Syria to reach a peaceful solution to its internal conflict, while safeguarding its territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as the safety, security and human rights of its citizens.

Annex V to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Enforcing the responsibility to protect: the role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 27 March 2013)*

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Acknowledging that, following several global initiatives, the responsibility to protect was recognized at the 2005 World Summit as a necessary and important principle to prevent, and protect populations from, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Recalling that this principle was established with a view to preventing genocides such as those that occurred in Srebrenica and Rwanda,

Also recalling that the UN Security Council considers that the international crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity constitute threats to international peace and security and that the principle of the responsibility to protect was reaffirmed in its resolution 1674 (2006), which addressed the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict,

Stressing that any decision related to the application of the responsibility to protect must be taken in a timely and decisive manner, through the UN Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and that any such action must be accompanied by the provision of adequate means to protect civilians, by giving priority to peaceful means,

Underscoring the special plight of women and children in situations of armed conflict,

Recalling that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute crimes against humanity under the provisions of UN Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security (1325, 1888 and 1960) and, in particular, resolution 1820, which recognizes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,

* The delegation of Cuba expressed a reservation on the entire resolution.
The delegation of Peru expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 10, considering that "any mention of the International Criminal Court (ICC) or the Rome Statute must not be prejudicial to other international jurisdictions recognized by the State in question, in particular regional jurisdictions".
The delegations of Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations on the ninth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 10 and 11.

Mindful of the fact that the responsibility to protect is based on three pillars: the permanent responsibility of each individual State to protect its population, whether nationals or not, from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means; the international community's commitment to assist and help to build the capacity of States to fulfil this obligation; and its commitment to take collective action in a timely and decisive manner when national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Underscoring the importance of combating impunity in the case of perpetrators and instigators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and recognizing the contribution in this field of the International Criminal Court (ICC); *also underscoring* the need to raise awareness of the role played by the ICC, to encourage reporting of and filing of complaints against the perpetrators of such crimes with the appropriate national authorities and the ICC, and to enhance the capacity of national authorities to respond to complaints, pursue justice, and cooperate and coordinate with the ICC, while recognizing the important contribution of those involved in providing the necessary evidence and sufficient information to the ICC,

Recalling that paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document states that "the international community, through the United Nations, also has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity"; *expressing* its willingness in this context to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the UN Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; *stressing* the need for the UN General Assembly to pursue its consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law; and *undertaking*, as necessary and appropriate, to help States build their capacity to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and to assist those in distress before crises and conflicts break out,

Aware of the concerns raised regarding the possibility of selective enforcement of the responsibility to protect and *underscoring* that the need to protect should not be seen as providing a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of a State on the basis of political and other extraneous considerations,

Reaffirming that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security and *noting* the role of the UN General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter,

Underscoring that prevention is a core aspect of the responsibility to protect and *stressing* the importance of education, the role of the media and the need to address the root causes of armed conflict,

Recognizing that, before any military intervention is authorized by the UN Security Council, it should give due consideration to all other avenues for action under Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and *mindful* that the responsibility to protect should be invoked only in order to prevent, or to protect populations from, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Reaffirming the principle of the sovereign equality of all States, enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, and *underscoring* that the responsibility to protect is premised both on State sovereignty and on the State's pre-existing and permanent legal obligations,

Convinced that parliaments around the world should consider ways and means to apply and implement the responsibility to protect in a timely, consistent and effective manner in order to avoid a situation where the international community is deadlocked over whether and how to act to prevent or to stop the massacre of civilians, having particular regard to UN Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security and on children and armed conflict,

Recalling that the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) adopted a resolution by consensus calling for the immediate cessation of violence and human rights violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic and for support for the efforts of international and regional organizations to bring about a peaceful end to the crisis, and urging the United Nations and the League of Arab States to redouble their efforts to help bring an end to armed violence in the country and address the current humanitarian crisis, and to work urgently to address all aspects related to the problem of displaced Syrians on the border with neighbouring countries,

Convinced that parliaments should be more involved in applying the responsibility to protect and, in particular, that their role in safeguarding the lives and security of their populations entails thorough consideration and action to prevent or stop genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Also convinced that mutual support between parliament, government, civil society and the judiciary may effectively help to enhance human rights protection,

Aware that restoring or maintaining peace in regions subjected to insecurity and violence requires considerable financial resources,

Convinced of the broader need for State authorities and parliaments to address the root causes of armed conflict and mass atrocities, by practising good governance and ensuring accountable public institutions, promoting and protecting human rights for all, guaranteeing the rule of law and fair, equal and impartial access to justice, professional and democratically accountable security services, inclusive economic growth and respect for diversity,

Underscoring the responsibility of the United Nations in ensuring respect for the rights of refugees in accordance with the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees,

Also underscoring that the role of parliament in the application of the responsibility to protect should be based on respect for the different legislative and executive roles and that oversight of the executive should be in line with democratic principles, in particular the protection and promotion of human rights, while *noting*

that parliaments have their own tools and committees for addressing issues related to the responsibility to protect,

1. *Invites* parliaments and parliamentarians to use all the public education and awareness-raising tools at their disposal to help prevent and put an end to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, paying particular attention to the plight of women and children, and to address issues related to the root causes of armed conflict;

2. *Calls* on parliamentarians to use all the tools at their disposal, including social media, to denounce acts of violence against women and children and fight impunity;

3. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that their governments protect populations, whether or not the nationals of their countries, from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and *also urges* parliaments and governments to assist and build the capacity of States to prevent the commission of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity and protect their populations, whether or not their own, from them and, where necessary, to engage in timely and decisive action, in accordance with the UN Charter, to prevent or put an end to such crimes;

4. *Calls* on parliaments to step up their oversight of government action to combat terrorism and implement UN Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which call on States to refrain from financing terrorists, facilitating their movement and aiding terrorism;

5. *Also calls* on parliaments to adopt laws and policies to protect women and children, to prevent and criminalize sexual violence and to provide redress for victims in times of peace and conflict;

6. *Encourages* parliaments to become acquainted with their States' obligations under international treaties and resolutions, to monitor the executive's submission of country reports as required by the relevant treaty bodies, particularly those relating to human rights, to become more involved with regional and international human rights mechanisms and to ensure that all United Nations doctrines and resolutions regarding the responsibility to protect are fully applied and respected by every country;

7. *Calls* on parliaments where necessary to ensure that all international treaties to which their country is party are incorporated in domestic law, giving priority to treaties dealing with human rights and the protection of civilians, especially those applicable to the rights and protection of women and children during and after armed conflicts and other crises;

8. *Urges* all parliaments to adopt measures to respect the rights of civilians caught up in armed conflicts, ensure adequate and effective judicial remedies, including efficient investigation and prosecution, treat women and child victims with dignity, and guarantee reparation to victims;

9. *Encourages* parliaments to adopt programmes to help child soldiers resume a normal life;

10. *Calls* on parliaments to take all the necessary measures to bring their countries' criminal and military law into line with international norms on the

protection of civilians in armed conflict and to ensure that the perpetrators of the most serious crimes are held to account for their acts before a national court or, where a State is unwilling or genuinely unable to take action, before the International Criminal Court, in the case of a State Party to the Rome Statute;

11. *Urges* parliamentarians to use their international network to promote the universal ratification of the Rome Statute, which recognizes the competence of the International Criminal Court with regard to crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; *requests* parliaments to ensure that their governments sign the Rome Statute; and *calls* on all parliaments that have not already done so to ratify it;

12. *Also urges* parliaments to promote debate on an arms trade treaty in order to put an end to the transfer of weapons in cases where there is a high risk that such weapons will be used to commit or facilitate violations of human rights or international humanitarian law or to hinder the fight against poverty;

13. *Calls* on all parliaments that have not yet done so to establish committees to oversee international relations and provide such committees with sufficient financial and human resources and adequate time on the parliamentary agenda to conduct their work;

14. *Encourages* parliaments to ensure that the protection of human rights, including those of women and children, members of minorities and indigenous peoples, is guaranteed in domestic law and implemented in practice;

15. *Urges* parliaments and governments to guarantee the human rights of women and further enhance their role in peace and security initiatives, honour existing international commitments to protect women's rights and incorporate women's leadership in decision-making for preventing and putting an end to mass atrocity crimes;

16. *Stresses* that, with regard to the responsibility to protect, parliaments should pay special attention to the human rights of women and children in crisis areas, as they often suffer the most and their misery is overlooked, with far-reaching human, social and economic consequences;

17. *Calls* on parliaments to encourage their governments to support the creation and effective functioning of early warning systems and decision-making and response mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, in order to respond faster and more effectively to situations of armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions;

18. *Invites* parliaments to actively bring to the attention of their governments situations of risk for civilian populations by ensuring that their governments discharge their responsibility of follow-up and prevention;

19. *Calls* for efforts to promote the media's role in documenting, preventing, and raising awareness about the commission of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity by guaranteeing freedom of expression; ensuring that freedom of the media is protected by the national constitution and law; demanding that all parties abide by their international obligations related to the protection and safety of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel; encouraging accurate journalism that respects the human rights of all populations; speaking out against expressions of hatred that constitute incitement to

discrimination, hostility or violence; and, where appropriate, legislating against such expressions;

20. *Calls* on parliaments to act resolutely upon the requests of their governments to provide sustainable assistance for the restoration of peace in post-conflict situations that give rise to mass atrocities and require such assistance, and to allocate the necessary funds to assist with the reconstruction of countries emerging from crises or conflicts and contribute to the UN peacebuilding fund as appropriate;

21. *Requests* parliaments to include funds in State budgets for the organization of operations to protect populations from violence and ensure their safety;

22. *Calls* on parliaments to ensure implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325, including by facilitating the participation of women in peace processes and negotiations, ensuring that women make up at least one third of negotiating teams, are well represented in defence and security forces and are properly trained as peacemakers and peacebuilders;

23. *Urges* the IPU to facilitate an exchange of good practices in the areas of parliamentary oversight of the enforcement of the responsibility to protect and parliamentary involvement in the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict and in the protection of populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity;

24. *Also urges* parliaments to be attentive to and scrutinize the reports of human rights organizations and the way in which governments ensure the protection of human rights;

25. *Calls* on parliaments to promote good governance based on the positive correlation between good governance and the advancement of peace and security;

26. *Also calls* on parliaments to monitor closely UN Security Council proceedings, request their governments to make the case at the Security Council for the need to act responsibly when resorting to coercive measures and ensure that once adopted resolutions are enforced in their entirety and in a transparent manner;

27. *Further calls* on parliaments to ensure that humanitarian agencies mainstream gender throughout their programmes and give women priority in emergency situations;

28. *Urges* all parliaments to defend and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy throughout the world;

29. *Encourages* parliaments to work together with civil society on issues of peace and security in order to better guarantee and improve protection of the human rights of citizens;

30. *Calls* on governments and parliaments to assume responsibility for protecting the rights of refugees and their right to international protection, and *also calls* on parliaments and governments to fulfil their obligations to protect refugees and asylum-seekers.

Annex VI to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 27 March 2013)

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Stating that fair trade serves two objectives, namely: it provides real opportunities for the development of small-scale producers and workers in developing countries; and it has a positive impact on the global trading system and private companies, encouraging them to become more justice-oriented, socially inclusive and supportive of sustainable development; all of this must be done in compliance with the standards and policies of the International Labour Organization (ILO),

Aware that fair trade has a positive impact on the income of producers and workers, in particular women, in developing countries as well as on employment in developed countries and on sustainable development,

Recalling the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the European Community and its Member States, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 (Cotonou Agreement) and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on 22 June 2010, in particular Article 23(i), which expresses support for the promotion of fair trade and notes that the realization of fair trade objectives is linked to sustainable development requirements and needs, and *emphasizing* respect for fair trade principles, particularly in the context of dialogue, transparency, respect and equality in international trade,

Also recalling the São Paulo Consensus, adopted at the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in São Paulo (Brazil) from 13 to 18 June 2004 and the decisions taken at the Rio+20 Summit held in Brazil in June 2012, set forth in the document *The Future We Want*, which noted that, given the social and human dimension of globalization, "development strategies have to be formulated with a view to promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all and to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions",

Noting that the European Union is currently the largest market for fair trade products, accounting for between 60 and 70 per cent of global sales,

Considering that fair trade should be based on the principles of sustainability, equity, transparency and gender equality in order to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor,

Mindful of the need to have innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development as a way of eradicating poverty, ensuring primary education for all, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and combating major pandemics,

Also mindful of the need for strong and independent judicial systems to dispense justice in a swift and effective manner as a way of ensuring sustainable development,

Aware of the need to address and combat climate change and global warming, which should be seen as the result of human activity, and of the need to increase public and private investment and international cooperation for enhancing food security in the face of climate change threats, and *considering* in this regard that the responsibilities and obligations of all countries at all times must be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility,

Also aware of the need for international laws governing international trade to ensure a level playing field between and among developed and developing countries,

Further aware of the need to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as a way of accelerating sustainable development,

Recalling previous IPU resolutions, in particular those adopted by the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Jakarta, 2000) on "Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty" and the 112th Assembly (Manila, 2005) on "The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals",

Also recalling the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, December 2011), which pledged to "... further develop innovative financial mechanisms to mobilize private finance for shared development goals",

Referring to the ground-breaking work of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development,

Also referring to the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference, which states: "We consider that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis. Such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing. While recognizing the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, we call for a scaling-up of present initiatives, where appropriate",

Confirming that developed countries' fulfilment and respect of their financing commitments and the principles of aid effectiveness are, for the time being, insufficient to achieve the MDGs and other development goals,

Underscoring that, given the magnitude of financing requirements for sustainable development, financial resources need to be raised from the full range of private, public and mixed sources, and through multiple channels and instruments, while taking measures to prevent the deviation of these resources to illicit activities,

Observing that a number of key sectors of the global economy are currently not taxed in some countries despite the negative externalities they generate,

Welcoming the significant upsurge of private philanthropic funds invested in sustainable development projects, which must not absolve States of their responsibility towards their inhabitants,

Considering the growing importance of remittances as a source of financing for the development of poor or middle-income countries, and *concerned* by the often exorbitant cost of sending them,

Underscoring that climate change will affect developing countries in particular and that funding measures to prevent and mitigate its effects and reduce energy poverty will contribute to achieving the MDGs,

Taking into account the role and work of the World Trade Organization (WTO),

1. *Calls* on parliaments to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trade initiatives that contribute to raising social and environmental standards as tools for achieving the MDGs and the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda; *calls* on the European Union to continue to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trading initiatives, and to implement Article 23 (i) of the Cotonou Agreement;

2. *Also calls* on all governments to continue to promote and support fair trade and to include fair trade as an integral component of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be part of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Further calls* on the European Union to continue to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trading initiatives, and to implement Article 23 (i) of the Cotonou Agreement;

4. *Invites* developed countries to provide financial resources to developing countries through their development cooperation mechanisms for developing new fair trade products and ensure that consumers have access to all the information they need to make the right choices;

5. *Calls* for fair trade to respect fair trade standards, as certified by Fair Trade International, which include inter alia clear minimum and progressive criteria to ensure that the conditions of production and trade of all fair trade-certified products are socially and economically fair and environmentally responsible, paying particular attention to ILO standards;

6. *Also calls* for supporting partnerships for development between governments, local authorities, businesses and citizens, such as Fair Trade, which ensure market access for disadvantaged producers, guarantee sustainable livelihoods and encourage environmentally sustainable farming and production practices;

7. *Requests* that fair trade certification processes be put in place under the authority of the State and in the framework of regional organizations competent in the area of trade and the WTO;

8. *Urges* parliaments and governments to explore the potential of innovative sources of financing required to meet development needs and to identify possible instruments and allocation mechanisms;

9. *Encourages* parliaments and governments to explore the national, regional and/or international potential of the following innovative financing sources:

- a financial transaction tax, in a variety of forms;
- taxation of carbon emissions, in a variety of forms;
- taxation of globalized activities, such as aviation and maritime activities;
- public-private partnerships to fight major diseases, such as the GAVI Alliance and Rotary International's successful campaign to eradicate malaria; and
- the use of guarantees and insurance to stimulate private financing for development, such as Advanced Market Commitments;

10. *Urges* parliaments to play an active role both through legislation and regulatory action to reduce taxes and fees on fair trade products;

11. *Appeals* to parliaments and governments to better take into account remittances when defining their development strategies and financing thereof and *stresses* that labour-recipient countries should not impose any undue restrictions on the money transfers of these workers to their home countries but should, on the contrary, reduce the costs given that these are a basic source of hard currency in such countries;

12. *Underscores* that these innovative financial flows should not place additional burdens on developing countries, that they should supplement existing official development assistance flows without reducing them, and should be compatible with a post-2015-development-agenda-centred development strategy, while being as far as possible predictable and sustainable;

13. *Also underscores* that transparency and public scrutiny of innovative financing mechanisms are a sine qua non for their introduction and *suggests* conducting case studies of existing programmes with a view to providing guidance; *appeals* for the harmonization of fragmented monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reduce transaction costs and facilitate independent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms so as to assess the delivery of innovative financing and its impact on development outcomes;

14. *Cautions* against setting up complicated structures for innovative financing that could impede transparent allocations of their proceeds to development projects, facilitate public scrutiny thereof and guarantee an effective evaluation of their contribution to development goals;

15. *Appeals* for consideration to be given to allocating the proceeds of innovative financing mechanisms through globally or regionally inclusive institutions;

16. *Advocates* for the coordination of relevant NGO activities and better use of existing programmes and experience;

17. *Urges* parliaments and governments of both developed and developing countries to promote international cooperation in the fight against tax evasion and step up efforts in the area of taxation, mainly in terms of tax collection and measures to combat tax evasion and unlawful capital flows to tax heavens, efforts which are crucial to achieving a sound fiscal policy and increasing domestic revenue, in particular through the recognition and protection of property rights, especially for

women, land registry systems and improving the business and investment climate in developing countries;

18. *Calls* for the strengthening and wider implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as a means to improve revenue transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors, and *invites* parliaments to support and monitor EITI processes in their respective countries;

19. *Invites* the governments of developed countries to scale up their assistance in the area of strengthening tax authorities, the judiciary and anti-corruption agencies in developing countries;

20. *Also invites* the governments of developed countries to combat active corruption committed in developing countries by companies domiciled in their jurisdictions;

21. *Urges* developing and developed countries to scale up their efforts to combat corruption by putting in place effective and impartial judicial systems so as to increase the efficiency of public spending and investments;

22. *Calls* on governments and NGOs to work towards meeting the commitments under the Copenhagen Accord and other international accords dealing with climate change;

23. *Encourages* parliaments and governments to explore in depth the possibility of establishing innovative financing mechanisms to assist developing countries in combating climate change;

24. *Calls* on all governments, particularly in developing countries, to work towards the achievement of sustainable development by improving the level of education of their citizens and empowering women, children and other disadvantaged groups, and *encourages* parliaments and governments to explore in depth the possibility of establishing innovative financing mechanisms for education;

25. *Also calls* for the holding of an international parliamentary conference on fair trade to discuss ways of achieving fair trade and the role of parliaments therein;

26. *Invites* those States which have not yet done so to join the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development set up in 2006 and to participate in all existing financing mechanisms for sustainable development;

27. *Calls* on parliamentarians and the IPU to play a pivotal role in advocating for fair trade as a means of ensuring sustainable development.